



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.  
Member of Congress  
36th District of California

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3605**

Washington, D.C. Office:  
2342 Rayburn House  
Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: [202-225-5330](tel:202-225-5330)

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Imperial Irrigation District Ninth Street Pipeline Project in Fiscal Year 2024.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Imperial Irrigation District at 333 E. Barioni Blvd., PO Box 937, Imperial, CA 92251.

The funding would be used to replace approximately 1,180 feet of an existing open irrigation channel with an underground 36-inch diameter plastic pipeline in order to accommodate full street right-of-way improvements and sidewalks for the benefit of the city of Holtville in Imperial County. The pipeline project will improve public safety and facilitate the implementation of concurrent street improvements.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the open irrigation channel is on Imperial Irrigation District's right-of-way located within an unincorporated area of Imperial County. The channel needs to be underground in order to allow for the roadway within city of Holtville jurisdiction to be constructed to its design capacity inclusive of sidewalk facilities. The city of Holtville secured FHWA funding to cover the costs of roadway improvements. However, financial resources are not available for the undergrounding of the irrigation channel and the city is unable to incur the costs to underground the pipeline because it is a low-income community. The city has a medium income equal to 56 percent of the State of California's median income and 25.3 percent of the city's population lives at or below the poverty level.



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Ninth Street, including the subject roadway segment, is considered a major collector by the Federal Highway Administration's Functional Classification System. Ninth Street is one of two emergency response routes for the city of Holtville and the only emergency response route west (towards medical facilities) that does not contain a bridge. Needless to say, Ninth Street is of significance importance for the city of Holtville and the local community. Without the undergrounding of the irrigation channel, Ninth Street would remain bottlenecked into a reduced width, would not support sidewalks and continue to be a hazard to pedestrians and motor-vehicles using this corridor.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in eligible under 23 USC 133(b) (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

  
Raul Ruiz, M.D.  
Member of Congress